

February 2023

New Hope Moravian Church

2897 Sandy Ford Road - Newton, North Carolina 28658
828-294-4802 – [website](#)



2023 Watchword

“The righteous are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season.
Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.”
(Psalm 1:3)

Happy 40th Anniversary New Hope!

In honor of the 40th anniversary of New Hope as a Moravian congregation, we are reprinting this article from an earlier Newsletter that was written so well by one of our long-time members, Ann Carr and updated by Charter Member Malissa Kinney Bumgarner. Along with the article is a timeline of significant events in the life of our New Hope family. Enjoy!

On This Ground New Hope is Building

*On this ground new hope is building,
Here upon this chosen knoll,
Here Thy church is trusting, yielding
Every effort, every soul.*

*Bless, O Lord, this congregation
Come and chart this church's path;
Give us daily Thy direction
Fill us with new hope and faith.*

*Standing here, facing our future
With a new hope overspread
Cov'ring us with God's own pleasure
We the Body; Christ the Head.*

*E. Artis Weber (1989)
Tune: Batty 16A*

The inspiring words of "***On This Ground New Hope is Building***" were written for New Hope's groundbreaking service in 1989 by E. Artis Weber, the wife of our interim pastor at that time, Herbert Weber. This hymn is relevant for us in 2016 as we reflect on New Hope's thirty-three-year presence in Catawba County.

On December 12, 1973, eight people met at the home of Wayne and Emily Garrett with the Board of Homeland Missions and made a unanimous commitment to organize a Fellowship. The Homeland Missions record states "this is the first Fellowship where the initiative was taken by local people."

Formally organized as a fellowship in January 1974, the group met weekly at First Presbyterian, Hickory and then Holy Trinity Lutheran until early 1976 when Fellowship members reached a mutual decision to discontinue. This was not considered a failure as a feature of the Fellowship Program provides that a fellowship "can be renewed at any time in the future when the need arises again."

With renewed enthusiasm coming from a new group of displaced Moravians, the Hickory fellowship was reactivated in July 1980. Meetings were held on Sunday evenings at Holy Trinity Lutheran while members remained active in other congregations. In 1982, as the fellowship grew with Moravian and non-Moravian members, The Rev. Scott Venable was installed as organizing pastor, the name New Hope was selected and Sunday morning services were held at the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Soon after, New Hope was worshipping in its first "home" at the old Bethlehem Lutheran Church building, Hickory. "***Bless, O Lord, this congregation, Come and chart this church's path***".

Formally chartered with 44 members on February 13, 1983, "***...Thy church is trusting, yielding every effort, every soul***" and is filled with excitement about opportunities for worship, outreach, and family fellowship. Yearly Candle Teas and Christmas Eve Lovefeasts with the community were especially meaningful. Blessed with new members with musical talent, New Hope's music program was launched which continues to thrive 40 years later and brings glory to God and joy to all who hear, sing, and play. A strong foundation of lay leadership among the members was established in these formative years as well.

The dream of a permanent building was realized in 1989 with groundbreaking "***upon this chosen knoll***." Member-based construction crews led by Mark Bumgarner did major work on the building and our beautiful church was consecrated on June 3, 1990. In our new church home and "***with a new hope overspread***" we were more focused on our ministry in the broader Catawba Valley. ECCCM and Corner Table, Hospice, The Family Care Center involvement, our Vacation Bible School and CMO, Scouts, ball teams were each offering opportunities for serving, sharing God's love, and raising awareness of who these Moravians are.

Our congregation has been shaped by the combined, unique gifts of the six called and six interim pastors who have served at New Hope. We have been joined together as a church family through our celebrations of worship, weddings, births, graduations, awards, new jobs, fund raising and fellowship as well as the trials of grief, illnesses,

family crises and tragedies. In addition, each of us has special memories that define our personal New Hope history.

As we are "***Standing here, facing our future***", Pastor Betty Helms continues to encourage us to commit to serving God more completely in all aspects of our lives and to strengthen our spiritual relationships with our Savior. In our continuing journey, may we remember the timeless words of 1989 "***Give us daily Thy direction, Fill us with new hope and faith***".

Your sisters in Christ,
Ann Carr and Malissa Bumgarner

References: Moravian Archives, The Moravian (Dec. 1995), *On This Ground New Hope is Building, 1989*.

Through The Years ...A History of New Hope Moravian Church

1972 - 1976 – First Moravian Fellowship met at First Presbyterian Church then Holy Trinity Lutheran in Hickory – Fellowship became inactive and disbanded.

1980- The second "Hickory Moravian Fellowship" met at Holy Trinity Lutheran for Sunday evening worship services with different visiting pastors, particularly for communion. We followed the liturgical calendar as much as possible.

1981 – Hickory Moravian Fellowship earned "Provisional Status" and qualified for a Moravian Pastor to be permanently sent. First Bazaar was held at Holy Trinity Lutheran.

1981-1989 – The Rev. Scott Venable served as the Founding Pastor. The Venables started their young family while with us and lived in Hickory.

1981 - Began daytime Sunday worship services including Sunday School at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Hickory. Members held a church council and voted **New Hope Moravian** as its name.

1982 – New Hope congregation moved and began worshipping at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hickory. The entire old church building was leased. One summer (Bishop) Lane Sapp did his Pastoral Internship under our Pastor Venable at New Hope. During his tenure Pastor Venable was Consecrated a Presbyterian of the Moravian Church, a reception followed under the large shade trees. First Women's Fellowship began along with one Women's Circle. Men's Fellowship started and so did the famous overnight cooking of the BBQ as a fundraiser.

FEBRUARY 13, 1983 –NEW HOPE MORAVIAN CHURCH CHARTERED 44 members signed the Charter

1984- First Candle Tea & Bazaar- held at Bethlehem Lutheran

1985- New Hope purchased their first organ- used at Bethlehem Lutheran then moved it to the new church building.

1989- New Hope had a groundbreaking ceremonial service at its current location complete with a massed Moravian Band, dignitaries from Winston-Salem & a hymn written for the occasion by E. Artis Weber, "On This Ground New Hope Is Breaking."

1989 - Campaign for Building Fund fervently promoted; The Rev. Scott Venable left for Park Road Moravian, Charlotte and the retired Rev. Herbert Weber served as interim during building phase 1989-1990. Mark Bumgarner served as Building Committee Chair, worked with Board of Evangelism and Homeland Missions (BEHM) & PEC in W-S to oversee all construction.

1990 – Dedication of New Hope Church building, 2897 Sandy Ford Rd, Newton 28658.

On our cornerstone:

"As For Me and My House We Will Serve The Lord" -- Joshua 24:15

1990- 1994 – The Rev. (Dr.) Neil Routh served as first pastor in the new building. The Routh's started their family with two little ones while at New Hope. The first Gemeinschaft Bible study groups began. New Hope was one of the first churches to use this Moravian bible study. During his last year, research started on opening a Children's Morning Out program as none in our area. Rev. Routh moved to pastor Grace Moravian in Mt. Airy, NC.

1994 – The Rev. Jon Peterson served as interim pastor for 6 months traveling twice a week from Winston-Salem while in the process of returning to the ministry. After 6 months he accepted a fulltime position at Clemmons Moravian as Associate Pastor. While with us he started family fun nights, ex movie night. Did "first person" sermons where he came in as a character of the bible or topic. He encouraged the trial run (after our year of research) of Children's Morning Out in the summer which opened for the public with volunteer staff from the congregation. A survey of the families showed they would return if we permanently opened.

1994 – Fall- New Hopes Children's Morning Out Program begins under the oversight of the church's CMO Advisory Committee and the first Director, Malissa Bumgarner with Assistant, Margaret Schultz (both volunteers). Our Preschool/CMO continues uninterrupted today as a thriving four day a week program under the current direction of Jennifer Morris and paid staff.

1995-2002 – The Rev. Judith Justice served as pastor. A former social worker, being a Pastor was a second call and career. Increased youth involvement & dramas in worship, Home School Band & Tom Schultz began teaching the young ones to play brass. Wednesday night dinners & fellowship started for music department families. New blue Book of Worship replaces the 1960's red Moravian Hymnal. Our own Craig deBlois served on the Southern Province New Hymnal Committee.

2002 – "God's Acre" was dedicated. At rest in our God's Acre are: Danny Tucker (2003), Debra McLaughlin (2010), Jim Hendrix and Bob Warren (2017). A memorial garden with bench was donated in memory of Debra McLaughlin by her sister, Paula Napoli & family in 2010.

2003 – The Rev. John Jackman served as interim traveling several days a week from Winston-Salem after returning to ministry. Started the "Joyful Noise Offering" - a collection of "noisy coins" once a month to help fund children's programming, such as VBS, Sunday school. Rev. Jackman accepted a call to Trinity Moravian in Winston.

2004- 2007 The Rev. John Rainey served as pastor while returning to ministry. Lead the way to retire the debt of loan on the church building through a "Sampson & Goliath" Campaign. Rev. Rainey was very active with the youth. Started involvement with Youth Mission Camps at Laurel Ridge. Held Ladies Teas with the older ladies in the church with Deb McLaughlin's help. Rev. Rainey moved to pastor a Moravian church in Greensboro, NC.

2007-2008 The Rev. Dr. Bob Sawyer served as interim- PEC President who traveled from Winston-Salem for Sundays and sent other available pastors when he couldn't come.

2008 – 2011 – The Rev. Adam Spaugh served as pastor. As our first newlyweds, we held a pounding/wedding shower for them. The Spaugh's started their family with two little ones while at New Hope. The original organ was on its last leg so a replacement fund raising challenge was accomplished very rapidly. The Spaugh's moved back to Pennsylvania to be near wife's family.

2010 – New organ dedication – September 5.

2011 – The Rev. Dr. Bob Sawyer served as interim- Former PEC President who shared his leadership & pastoral experience through our transition. He joined our band.

2011 – 2012 – Pastor Betty Helms supplied as pastor for 3 months traveling several days a week and as needed from Winston-Salem. She visited hospitals, met with most groups and stayed for Wednesday night dinners. She also assisted in our transition.

2012 – The Rt. Rev. Dr. Wayne Burkette served as interim. Former PEC President who shared his leadership & pastoral experience through our transition. He assisted with The Call Process.

2012 to present - The Rev. Betty A. Helms installed & is the current pastor.

Nurtures a family atmosphere within the congregation. Shows compassion & caring through visitation. Invites Lay leadership into worship. Enhanced Chicken Pie System to make & sell large quantities for the maintenance and edification of the church, which has funded many repairs and replacements.

Small groups expand, such as New Hopers. Church Window Replacement Campaign completed for Fellowship Hall & Educational Building. Development of New Hope website by Jim Helms which continues today. New storage room added to our Fellowship Hall for much needed space. Bench outside back double doors donated in memory of Jim Helms, Pastor Betty's husband who passed away unexpectedly in 2017. Red Cross blood mobile drives held biannually. New Hope assigned 1 day per month to volunteer at ECCCM. Mission Committee starts having collections for agencies almost every month.

2017 – November 12 – The Rev. Betty A. Helms consecrated as a Presbyterian in the Moravian Church. Service held at New Hope with the Women's Fellowship hosting a formal reception.

2018- New Hope hosts the Catawba Valley Chorus for its spring concert and provided an excellent reception in the fellowship hall. Very well received. Plans made to host again in future.

2020- The Year of Corona Virus, Covid-19. The year began as usual, but by mid-March the orders came from Government Agencies, Health Departments, and the PEC to close church buildings and Preschools. Travel was limited to essential only. Pastor Betty starts emailing daily devotions she has created and other important info. The Church Board stays in touch with their shepherding list and meets by Zoom conferencing. Building continues to be closed all of April.

By mid-April a group of 4 couples come forward to form a task force to investigate and plan outdoor worship when NC Phase 2 starts and with approval of PEC. Research is done on Parking Lot Worship, sound systems, service structure, layout of our grounds, etc.

May 17, 2020- First Parking Lot Worship Service, 11:00 AM. Pastor Betty conducted the service elevated from a trailer parked under a tree for shade next to the church. Rules for attendance: All wear masks, park every other space, stay distanced 6 ft or more apart, may sit in lawn chairs behind car with no mingling, no singing, building not open, drop offering off on way in to parking lot and receive bulletin from masked & gloved usher. Service modified and shortened with 1 reader to respond for the congregation for liturgies and recorded music played over loudspeakers. Outdoor Worship Task Force was so thrilled to see car after car turn into the church driveway. What a joyful sight to see each other after months apart, even if we were masked and couldn't hug. There was some very vigorous waving and air hugs going on! Almost all our regular attenders came. There also were church neighbors that set on their porches and participated.

May 31, 2020- Worship moved to other side of parking lot next to Gods Acre under shade trees since the temperature had climbed rapidly. Pastor Betty now preaching from a platform built to provide a level place to stand. The members could sit in lawn chairs under the trees or in their cars facing her. Time of worship pushed back to 9:30 AM due to the heat. Continued the same safety rules. Added another reader to come to microphone for scripture reading. Graduates were recognized and given a "reception in a bag"- goodies/snacks in a gift bag since no reception allowed. Worship continued this way throughout the summer.

Nov 1, 2020- Sanctuary Reopened for Worship- NC moved into a phase that allowed return indoors with restrictions and PEC approval.

Requirements of Worshipers for Indoors: Do not come if sick or stay in your car. Must sign a onetime waiver. Temperatures taken and health questions asked each Sunday before entry, masks on always, hand sanitizer at entrance and exits, single use bulletins given, used and taken home.

Changes Inside for Safety: Windows and doors open with HVAC system turned on for circulation, Foot traffic one way, pews marked off, 6 ft or more apart, no mingling, only sit with family members or bubble, end of service pews are released 1 at a time starting in the front and exiting out front side exterior door.

The Service: Entire service is now recorded for posting on New Hope's YouTube channel. Continues as a shortened service and broadcast to parking lot by transmitter. A single singer is added at a microphone to assist with hymns. Organist returns to play preludes, hymns and postludes.

Nov 22, 2020- Thanksgiving Lovefeast. Worshipers received a bag on the way in to parking lot or into the sanctuary with wrapped bun, napkin and Lovefeast ode. Worshipers also picked up coffee in to-go cups.

Nov 27, 2020- Planned "No On-Site Worship Sunday" due to high risk of spread of COVID-19 from family gatherings at Thanksgiving. Pastor Betty presented a message on-line. Soon reports of large increases of the spread throughout the State and around New Hope spread.

December 2020- Return to Worship Services Outdoors- (Back to the Parking Lot)

It was discovered some members had been exposed or had the virus. Catawba County numbers of illness and death skyrocketed. The Board of Elders upon the advice of the Worship Task Force decides to return worshipers to the parking lot with radio transmission of the service using the worship team and Pastor Betty. Still recorded and offered YouTube services for those who can't come to parking lot.

April 4, 2021- Sanctuary is Reopened Again for Easter Worship

The same protocols as before were put in place for the safety of those attending indoors. As the virus/pandemic began to ease we were able to return to a somewhat normal situation very gradually. We gradually returned to hymnals and regular bulletins; some choir members would sing but were spaced apart.

By the end of 2022 the pews that were roped off for 6 foot spacing were removed, masks became optional in Sunday School and Worship, the Board of Elders started meeting face to face, the choir and handbells began practicing for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We opened our doors to the community for the first time in years for our Christmas Eve Lovefeast and Candlelight Service, but only had one service at 5:00 PM with almost 200 in attendance.

2023 and Beyond

New Hope's Board of Elders continue to monitor the status of our community and members health today. We at New Hope have learned to be flexible and resilient through this unusual time. Members and friends have pooled their talents and resources to find ways to be together in some format of worship as the virus and the powers that be dictate.

February 12, 2023 – New Hope Celebrates 40 Years of Ministry

As a regional congregation in the Catawba Valley serving Burke, Lincoln, Iredell, and other surrounding counties of Catawba we are the Moravian Church for the foothills of NC. Now with the addition of the YouTube services we are spreading the gospel to those who cannot be present and anyone around the world who signs in to watch. With the complex issues of today's health crisis, New Hope has continued to reach out monthly to assist various charities and causes. May we continue to be a blessing in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for many more years to come. "To God be the Glory." Amen!

New Hope's 40th Anniversary Celebration

New Hope will celebrate its 40th year by having a Lovefeast service with beautiful music on February 12. The song that was commissioned and written just for us at our New Hope groundbreaking will be sung. Worship will be followed by a reception. Masks are optional.

We encourage you to invite those folks that are family, former members, or friends of New Hope and all that might want to celebrate with us. An invitation for your use is below.

Join us for this special event,
Your Worship Committee



**It has also been our custom to bring a gift to the church
for this special celebration.**

Over the last several years we have found it best to receive
GIFT CARDS to OFFICE DEPOT/MAX, SAM'S CLUB, and HOME DEPOT.

This way purchases can be made for supplies as needed for the church.

This helps alleviate spending out of our budget.

A basket will be available in the Narthex to collect your greeting cards/gift cards.

Thanks in advance for your support!
Mark Bumgarner, Stewardship Chair

Reception for New Hope's 40th Anniversary

February 12th Following Worship

The Hospitality Committee will be hosting a heavy reception right after worship in honor of our church's 40th anniversary and special guest speaker, the Rev. Scott Venable, Founding Pastor. Watch for more details on this dignitary and the exciting worship service from the Worship Committee. Everyone is invited to participate and enjoy finger foods together.

We are planning on offering heavy Hors D'oeuvres with all tables and chairs set up this time. Help will be needed with food and beverages, set up, serving/restocking, clean up and teardown, etc.

The sign-up sheet for suggested items to prepare is ready.

Malissa Bumgarner, Hospitality Committee Chair



New Hope Moravian Church

2897 Sandy Ford Road • Newton, North Carolina 28658 • 828-294-4802

*You are cordially invited to attend the
Fortieth Anniversary Celebration and Lovefeast Service of
New Hope Moravian Church,
Sunday- February 12, 2023, at 10:00 am.*

*We will be sharing our spiritual journey as a Church family
and featuring the Rev. Scott Venable, Founding Pastor.
Please be our guest for this memorable celebration.*

Reception to follow worship.

We look forward to seeing you. Masks are optional.

*The New Hope Moravian Church Family
And
Pastor Betty A Helms and the New Hope Board of Elders*



What does it mean that God is love?

The Bible teaches us about God's love in 1 John 4:7-9 NLT, ⁷ "Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him."

In the New Testament (originally in Greek), represents more than one word for love. The Greek word *agapos*, often referred to as *agape* love, is the word used in 1 John 4. It is used when speaking of an unconditional love. God's love is boundless.

God is the source of love ... As the Creator of all things (Genesis 1:1), God is the One who created love. It is because of His love that we are able to love. As 1 John 4:19 notes, "We love because he first loved us."

God's greatest gift and expression of His love came through His Son, Jesus Christ. God created us, sustains us, and has revealed Himself to us through Jesus. John 1:14 states, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

The Bible's most familiar passages of love is found in 1 Corinthians 13. In these verses we find God's love toward us expressed in poetic terms. We are told, "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." (1 Corinthians 13:4-8).

The most profound act of God's love for us is found in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." God's love through His Beloved Son Jesus, provides an opportunity for those who believe to spend eternity with Him. It is God's desire for us to enjoy His love both in this life and for all eternity.

The Bible states in Romans 5:8, "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." God's Son Jesus meets us where we are. Because of God's great love for us He refuses to leave us in our sinful nature. Therefore, Jesus came to give His life as the ultimate sacrifice of God's love.

Clearly, God is love. He created love, He created us to love Him, and to love others. God has unconditionally extended His love to each one of us. Our challenge is to accept His abounding love: Ephesians 2:8-9 states, ⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."

John 10:10 states, "The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."

John 3:16 states, "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

"To God Be the Glory" ... For God's great LOVE and GOODNESS to us His people. Amen.

In Christ Love & Service,
Pastor Betty



Let's Tackle Hunger!

After the worship service on **Sunday February 5th**, New Hope will collect donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring Campaign. All donations will be sent to The Corner Table in Newton to support their mission to feed members of our community affected by hunger.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a nationwide effort to shine a spotlight on the fact that many in our communities don't have food to go into their bowls. Last year New Hope donated \$400 to The Corner Table. We know the need in our community is increasing, so let's see if we can exceed our previous total.

Look for the soup pots and drop in your cash or checks made out to New Hope with "Souper Bowl" or "Corner Table" written on memo line.

Thank you for your generosity and love for your neighbors!
New Hope's Mission Committee

"Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor." Proverbs 22:9



FEB. 21, 2023

PANCAKE SUPPER!

5:00 PM to 7:00 PM!

Celebrate Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday) with your New Hope Family. Come to the Fellowship Hall between 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM and enjoy a sumptuous supper of pancakes, sausage, bacon, milk, coffee and juices with your favorite condiments!


New Hope Moravian Church

2897 Sandy Ford Road • Newton, North Carolina 28658 • 828-294-4802

Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper!

You don't want to
miss this!

WE HAVE TWO
WORDS FOR YOU...
BACON & SAUSAGE

There will be a
donation basket to
contribute toward
the cost of the food

We will offer
regular & gluten
free pancakes!

PUT THIS ON
YOUR
CALENDAR
NOW!!



Lent begins with ***Ash Wednesday** and ends with the conclusion of the Great Sabbath (Holy Saturday - Easter Eve) - a span of forty days on the church calendar, excluding Sundays. It is symbolic of the forty days Christ spent fasting and praying in the desert while enduring the temptations of the devil. (Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke)

Lent is generally observed as a time for spiritual renewal; a time for Christians to reflect, repent, and pray as a way of preparing their hearts for Easter and the Resurrection of Christ. Although not dictated or required by the Moravian Church, many of the faithful voluntarily commit to fasting or giving up certain types of luxuries as a form of penitence during the season of Lent.

The three traditional practices to be taken up with renewed vigor during Lent are prayer (justice towards God), fasting (justice towards self), and almsgiving (justice towards neighbor).

Counting Sundays, there are actually 46 days in the Lenten penance (season) - Sundays are excluded because each and every Sunday is considered a celebration of the Resurrection of Christ.



* **Ash Wednesday** derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of the faithful as a celebration and reminder of human mortality, and as a sign of mourning and repentance to God. The ashes used are typically gathered from the burning of the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday.

2022 Financial Overview

Unfortunately for the year 2022, our income did not keep up with expenses. The income was approximately \$115,000 and expenses were around \$127,400. On average we brought in \$1,000 less per month on income vs what was needed for our expenses. As a side note, in 2021 we were able to meet our needs largely due to a onetime gracious donation of \$5000 which the congregation matched.

What can we do as a congregation, as our budget has gone up slightly for 2023?

We are asking you to please take a hard look at your current contributions. Several have already stepped up their giving for 2023. We are so blessed to have some very giving families. A lot of times out of habit, a contribution amount has stayed the same for years. Please prayerfully consider increasing your giving, understanding that many of us are on a fixed income. Even if you are unable to increase your current contributions, a onetime extra donation always helps. We know it has been challenging for a few years with changes due to COVID, etc.

This church has been a loving and giving congregation since the start. Together we can continue to do the same now and in the future. All we are and all we have is in trusted to us by God.

Your Brother in Christ,
Mark Bumgarner, Stewardship Chair

Financial Update for Fourth Quarter of 2022

To keep the congregation informed the Board of Elders will continue to give quarterly updates on our financial status. In 2022 the Covid-19 Virus, RSV and the flu continued to present many issues for our community and church.

Our monthly budget for 2022 is \$10,685 for general expenses. The following reflects what our monthly giving and exact expenses were for the fourth quarter of 2022:

	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Contributions</u>
Oct	\$9,791.00	\$10,923.00
Nov	\$9,616.00	\$9,246.00
Dec	\$11,736.00	\$10,391.00

As always, please prayerfully consider your giving. There are several ways now to give that offers you more convenience:

1. Drop off in offering plate as you enter or as you exit the Sanctuary.
2. Drop a check in the mail preferably to: New Hope Moravian, C/O Mark Bumgarner, 2249 Dove St, Newton, NC 28658 (the church mailbox is not monitored regularly)
3. Donate online option: To New Hope via credit card or direct debit (automatic bank to bank transfer). The Moravian Ministries Foundation of America (MMFA), provides the portal for this electronic giving and they directly deposit any funds to the New Hope bank account. Here is the link to the online giving portal: <https://mmfa.info/new-hope-moravian-church-north-carolina-donation-form/>.

The Board appreciates everyone's financial support of our church.

Mark Bumgarner
Stewardship and Commitment Chair



Why is Pre-Funeral Planning Important?

No one likes to think about death, and yet, doing so is extremely helpful to those whose loved ones have left them with a pre-planned funeral service.

By pre-planning your funeral, you relieve your family of having to make important financial decisions during a sensitive time of grief and stress. People are not thinking clearly, and they struggle with what to do.

Have you ever stopped to think, that a funeral and/or memorial service isn't just for the deceased one, but for the living? A funeral helps (those left behind) to deal with their loss. When friends and a family gather to grieve openly, it provides a wide source of support for one another.

Pre-planning your funeral can be both informal and simple... For example, one can make arrangements in the form of a personal contract with a funeral home, the obituary, choosing arrangements, outline of your final desires, decide where you will be buried, choosing your favorite hymns and Scriptures for the service. In the Moravian Church, a Memoir (read at the service) can also be prepared (by the deceased) before their death.

Pre-planning can give you and your family peace of mind because you have pre-planned. Now you have the (last word) on your funeral service.

Nancy Miller has just completed her (final arrangements). She is willing to help you and head-up this Pre-Planning Program.

If you are interested, please contact Pastor Betty or Nancy Miller. If there is interest to pre-plan your service... We can set a date & time to help you.



Star Staff of the Month

Amanda Grant

The preschool's Star Staff Member for February is Amanda Grant. Amanda is new to the program this school year. She has three years of experience teaching first grade and comes to our program after spending time at home with her children. Amanda has been a great addition to our preschool staff. She is a great team player, a caring teacher, and makes learning fun for her students in her class.

About Ms. Amanda

Amanda was born in upstate New York and moved to North Carolina when she was 8 years old. She lived in Greensboro before moving to Hickory. She and her husband have three children ages 4, 6, and 8. Their youngest daughter is a student at our preschool. They share their home with their pet cat. Amanda likes to spend time gardening, hiking, and playing tennis.

Favorites:

- Color: Green
- Snack Food: Dark chocolate and peanut butter
- Beverage: Coffee
- Book: Where the Crawdads Sing (recent read), likes romances and mysteries
- Movie: Anything Disney
- Holiday: Christmas
- Childhood Dream Job: Teacher
- Superhero: Spiderman
- Bucket List Place to Visit: Hawaii

Thank You Ms. Amanda!!



Church Cleaning: Please consider **cleaning the Church**. Through the years, we have been blessed with volunteers who signed up to clean the Church. We hope to continue this so there will be no added expense to the Church budget. It only takes an hour or so each week at your convenience. Do a whole month or just one or two weeks. **Sign-up list on Church bulletin board...**

NO CHURCH KEY... NO WORRY. Arrangements can be made to let you in the Church. Cleaning supplies are provided, or you can bring your own. **Let's ALL work together to keep New Hope clean & looking good for ALL who enter here to worship?**

➔ **February Cleaners: Margaret & Tom Schultz**

Board of Elders Small Bulletin Board- In the vestibule you will find (for transparency) at the Fellowship Hall doors summaries of the Board of Elders meetings, Quarterly Average Attendance Report and Quarterly Financial Report. Please look for these updates.



February Birthdays

2nd – Kaytlynn Noland (Cortes)

5th – Penny Miller

6th – Margaret Schultz

Glenda Hutto

13th – Kim Greaser

14th – Leslie Srail

24th – Bonnie Everhart



WORSHIP:

- 1) Inside
- 2) Parking Lot (Tune to FM 87.9)
- 3)



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCagQsb0gw2QUC-UFiwe5ikg>

DONATE:

Online Giving

<https://mmfa.info/new-hope-moravian-church-north-carolina-donation-form/>.

Please contact Tom Schultz at newhopemoraviantreasurer@gmail.com with any questions.



SOCIAL MEDIA:

Facebook & Instagram

@newhopemoravian



Mark Your Calendar for February

Wednesday, February 1st – **Handbell Practice** 6:15-7 pm
Chancel Choir 7-8 pm

Thursday, February 2nd – **ECCCM Workday**

Sunday, February 5th – **Sunday School 9:00 am**
Worship Service 10:00 am



Board of Elders Meeting 11:15 am

Christian Education Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 8th – **Handbell Practice** 6:15-7 pm
Chancel Choir 7-8 pm

Sunday, February 12th – **No Sunday School**
Worship Service 10:00 am

New Hope's 40th Anniversary
Guest Speaker Rev. Scott Venable
Reception following Worship

Thursday, February 14th –



Wednesday, February 15th – **Handbell Practice** 6:15-7 pm
Chancel Choir 7-8 pm

Sunday, February 19th – Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship Service 10:00 am

Praise and Play

Thursday, February 21st –



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 5 – 7 pm



Wednesday, February 22nd – Ash Wednesday – Communion & Ashes 6:30 pm



Friday, February 24th – March Newsletter Articles Due

Sunday, February 26th – Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship Service 10:00 am

Pray Every Day February 2023

1. Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Pray for Michael and Brenda Brent in Croatia.
2. The Lord Almighty has sworn, 'Surely as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand.' Pray for Charlie and Vicki Brent in Texas.
3. You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast because he trusts in you. Pray for the government leaders in our country.
4. In that day the Lord Almighty will be a glorious crown, a beautiful wreath for the remnant of his people. Pray for Safiatu Braima and Sierra Leone.
5. Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. Pray for the Moravians in Peru.
6. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! Pray for Moravians in Cuba and the Armando Rusindo Foundation.
7. For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king, it is he who will save us. Pray for Moravians in Honduras and Nicaragua.
8. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow. Pray for the Teshes in Kenya and Ray of Hope Orphanage.
9. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Pray for the Robert and Anne Thiessen in Canada.
10. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. Pray for the Sineaths in Campus Outreach.
11. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint. Pray for the Unity Women's Desk.
12. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. Pray for Steve and Ann Marx with Mission Aviation Fellowship.
13. I will strengthen and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Pray for Dusty and Christin Harrison with Greek Intersity.
14. Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight. Pray for Alan and DeeDee lobst in France.
15. Fear not for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. Pray for the Board of World Mission.
16. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth. Pray for Annie B Missions and Star Mountain.
17. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land. Pray for Kevin and Charity in the Middle East.
18. Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. Pray for Brian and Heather Marx with Mission Aviation Fellowship.
19. But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. Pray for the Hoffmans in HIV/AIDS Ministry.
20. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Pray for Joey Yokeley with Fellowship of Christian Athletes.
21. I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. Pray for Adopt A Village in Tanzania.
22. Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. Pray for Phil and Eunice Raiford in Mexico.
23. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. Pray for the Rajpur Foster Child Project.
24. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. Pray for PEC members, bishops and other church leaders.
25. The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them. Pray for the Clinica Evangelica Morava in Ahaus.
26. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. Pray for seminarians and candidates for ordination.
27. To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Pray for short term mission teams.
28. Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. Pray for Anna Faircloth with YoungLife.



February 2023 NEWSLETTER

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